

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1902.

VIRGINIA'S SCHOOL TO INSTRUCT TEACHERS

History of the Female Normal Institute at Farmville.

FRUITS OF BEST MINDS

Its Graduates Take Leading Stand in High Institutions.

SCHOOL IS WELL MANAGED

The Cost to the State is Small in Comparison to the Result Attained—The Board of Trustees a Distinguished Body—Has Always Had Men of High Attainments at Its Head—New President Proposed.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)
FARMVILLE, VA., March 1.—It was not until about thirty years ago that the public mind in Virginia came to connect the stability of the free institutions with the intelligence of the people, and to see that general education is the basis of general thrift. The first Legislature to assemble after the adoption of the post-bellum Constitution established a system of public schools (July 11, 1876). For a dozen or more years the conduct of these schools was entrusted to such teaching force as was found ready at hand. In this experimental period nothing was more fully demonstrated than that, if the returns were to be in any wise commensurate with the cost and the high mission of the system, some provision must be made for reliable source of supply for teachers fitted by education and training for their work. To meet this demand the Legislature, in March 1884 passed an act establishing the State Female Normal School at Farmville.

Dr. W. H. Ruffner, and Dr. J. L. M. Curry, undoubtedly belongs the credit of the Normal School idea in Virginia. Dr. Ruffner, as Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State, having already rendered most valuable aid to education by his advanced and correct ideas and his masterly reports, felt the need of teachers specially trained for work in the public schools, of the schools were to be really important factors in the elevation of the people. Dr. Curry, as agent of the Peabody Fund, was able to give very material aid financially, and besides gave what was, if possible, of more value, his wide mental and moral support.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.
The result of these efforts was the action of the Legislature at its session of 1884, establishing a State Normal School expressly for the training of white female teachers for the public schools.

That the school was located in Farmville was due to the fact that the town offered to give the State for this purpose a building formerly used as an academy and this offer was warmly supported by men of such character and prominence as Dr. W. H. Ruffner, Rev. James N. Harrison, Dr. J. L. M. Curry, and the Baptist Church in Farmville, now president of the Woman's College, Richmond, Va., and Dr. W. H. H. Thackston, at the time mayor of Farmville and most anxious to further any enterprise that would promote the intellectual and moral training of the people.

The act of the Legislature establishing the Normal School carried with it an appropriation of five thousand dollars for buildings and necessary expenses in the beginning, and ten thousand dollars annually in June of the following year. The Board of Trustees—W. H. Ruffner, J. L. M. Curry, R. M. Manly, C. R. Holland, L. A. Mitchell, J. L. Buchanan, W. N. Watkins, G. O. Conrad, W. E. Gaines, W. W. Herbert, John B. Minor, C. S. Armstrong, H. H. Harris, and ex-officio State Superintendent, R. B. Parr.

At a meeting of this board held a few weeks later in Richmond, Dr. J. L. M. Curry was elected president of the board, Dr. J. L. Buchanan vice-president, and Judge P. N. H. Harris secretary, while Dr. W. H. Ruffner was induced to become principal of the new school, giving to it the benefit of his wide knowledge of the needs of public schools and his unusual intellect. At a meeting of the board held September 1, 1884, the following were elected: Dr. Ruffner principal, at the head of the board and Dr. Ruffner, at the head of the school, its success was assured.

The first step was to secure teachers, which was no easy matter, as teachers in a Normal School must be specially trained for their work. There being in Virginia at this time few people familiar with the organization, and the methods of Normal Schools, Dr. Ruffner was authorized to seek in the North three persons suited for the position of instructors, and his nominees were at once elected. To the board of trustees this number were added two ladies from the South who had experience in teaching in the best public school systems. So at the appointed time, in spite of the discouraging outlook six weeks before, the school was opened with Dr. Ruffner principal, Miss Celeste E. Bush, of Connecticut, vice-principal; Miss Brimblecomb of Boston, teacher of music; Miss Lillian A. Lee, of Connecticut, teacher of mathematics and drawing; Miss Pauline Gash, of North Carolina, teacher of English, and Mrs. C. T. Barlow, of Richmond, teacher in the preparatory school.

The first year there were accommodations for forty-four boarders. The attendance was one hundred and three, and three graduates. The second session, and a slightly larger attendance, and eight graduates, among whom were Miss Celestia Parrish and Miss Madeline Mapp, both afterwards teachers in the school, and now both members of the faculty of high grade female colleges.

Aside in order to undertake the organization of the school, and Dr. John A. Cunningham was elected to succeed him. Dr. Cunningham was at the time engaged in work in the public schools of Richmond, which fitted him peculiarly for the duties upon which he now entered.

The course of study in pursuance of the plan already outlined by Dr. Ruffner was extended to cover three years, two of the academic work, and one year entirely professional. The model school was converted into a school of practice, in which every member of the senior class was required to teach daily, her work being carefully supervised by the several teachers of methods, and by an experienced teacher placed in charge of the practice school. To carry out this plan the faculty was increased in number, the academic work extended to embrace trigonometry in mathematics; Latin and German were soon added; ancient history was included; good courses in physics, chemistry, astronomy, and botany outlined, and an English course extended to cover the ground usually covered by English courses in the best secondary schools.

The Legislature of 1888 appropriated \$15,000 for additional buildings, that of 1890 increased the annual appropriation to \$12,000; that of 1891 still further increased the annual appropriation to \$15,000, besides giving \$5,000 for additional buildings. The school has also received aid from the Peabody fund of sums varying from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per annum.

With these sums the course has been extended from time to time. Short-hand and typewriting, as a department of book work, and French have been added in the last few years, laboratories for instruction in physics, chemistry, and physiology erected, adequate apparatus for the needs of the school purchased, and the foundation of a good working library begun, the capacity of the building enlarged so as to accommodate more than one hundred and fifty boarders, and many comforts added. At the close of the session of 1897-98 there were, including the practice school, 331 pupils and 351 graduates.

HEAD OF THE TRUSTEES.
In the eighteen years of the existence of the school there has been four presidents of the board of trustees. The first was J. L. M. Curry, to whom the school owes much; General W. B. Tallaferro, Colonel J. P. Fitzgerald, and Hon. Robert Turnbull. Dr. Curry, having done what he could for the establishment of the school, resigned the presidency of the board after one year of service, though he remained a member some years longer. General Tallaferro gave his heart's true affection to the institution from the time of his election in 1885 until a few weeks before his death in 1893. It was his boast that he never missed a meeting of the board of trustees, and it was his greatest pleasure to feel that he was assisting in the raising of an institution so much loved and in whose future he had so much faith.

Colonel J. P. Fitzgerald, elected in January, 1893, was called away by death in June of the same year. The value of Colonel Fitzgerald to the school, and the all he measured by the length of time he held the highest office in connection with the institution. He had been a member of the board since 1886, and more than one more year of his life was devoted to the school than he, none could be more sympathizing and helpful in times of perplexity and distress. Being a resident of Farmville and a skillful lawyer, naturally all knotty questions were carried to him, and during the months the school was without a president his presence was invaluable.

Hon. Robert Turnbull, elected October, 1893, is at this time president, and it is hoped he may long be spared to give the school the benefit of his wisdom, wide experience and unflinching integrity.

There is now on the Board only one of the original trustees, Dr. James Nelson of Richmond.

THE PRESIDENTS.
There have been four presidents of the school. Dr. Ruffner, the first, truly the father of the institution, sowed the seed, but did not wait to see the ripening grain. Dr. Cunningham, coming soon after its organization, endowed with remarkable intellectual powers, gave it the knowledge of the needs of the public school, and an energy and ability to lose himself in his work rarely seen, accomplished in ten years what, with most people, would have required twenty. To him the school owes pretty much all that it is to-day. Almost alone his battles, planned his work, with his far-seeing mental vision, building it up on lines he felt would accomplish great results in the future. It has been said of him lately by one who has spent twenty years and more in the institution, that Dr. Cunningham was the most advanced educator and

SYL STOKES HAS BEEN RECAPTURED
Under Guard Until Well Enough to Be Brought to Prison.
Surprised and Grieved.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)
MEHERRIN, VA., March 1.—Sheriff C. S. Bagley, with his deputy, A. B. Shackelford, arrived here this evening from Mr. Borum's, seven miles northeast of this place, where they had just captured S. Y. Stokes, the escaped convict, who twice has attempted suicide in the past three weeks. They arrived at the home of Mr. Borum about 12 o'clock, and found Mr. Stokes in bed. They immediately placed two guards over him until to-morrow when he will be taken back to jail and kept a few weeks until arrangements can be made to carry him to the penitentiary. Mr. Stokes' wounds are getting along as well as can be expected, and it is thought that in a few weeks he will be well again with the exception of one eye, which he will lose.

Sheriff Bagley says Mr. Stokes was somewhat surprised, as well as grieved, at his capture, and complained that his wounds were too bad for him to be taken back to the courthouse.

It is the impression here among the people that should a good chance be given Stokes he will doubtless carry his efforts at suicide into effect, as he still claims that he would rather die than serve four years at hard labor.

VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.
Large Attendance on Fourth Day's Session of Convention.
(By Associated Press.)
TORONTO, ONT., March 1.—The fourth day's session of the Students' Volunteer Movement had a large attendance. Samuel B. Capen, of Boston, delivered an address on "The Necessity of Making the Financial Plans of the Church Commensurate With the Magnitude of the Task of the World's Evangelization."

Evans will deliver his sermon on "The Young Man and Night." "That Right Belshazzar, King of the Chaldeans, was slain." A night of terror in ancient Babylon—night-life in the modern city—"Watchman, what of the night?"—and its deeds—whether do you walk in the darkness—night and its possibilities—crimes of night—night and misery—night and peace.

BOYS GIVE BENEFIT.
Concert Given to Aid Young Man Who is an Invalid.

THE BOYS OF THE WEST-END ANGEL MUSICAL CLUB will give an entertainment at Beider's Hall on March 20th, for the benefit of a young carpenter, who was injured several years ago, during the erection of the Jefferson Hotel, by the falling of a brick upon his head while at work.

He has been suffering ever since and has been entirely helpless for more than two years. Previous to his affliction he had been the sole support of an aged and invalid mother, since he was quite a boy. In addition to instrumental music there will be songs, recitations, a cake-walk by the children and a country dance by the club. Tickets are for sale at the following places:

Hutchbeck's Stall, Sixth-Street Market; D. Buchanan's, No. 10 East Broad Street; Fellheimer's Clothing Store, Third and Broad Streets; Dabney's Shoe Store, No. 20 East Main Street; B. B. Bowles' Shoe Store, No. 305 East Broad Street; Harris's Hardware Store, No. 409 East Broad Street; Mrs. Celia Kass's Millinery, No. 602 East Broad Street; Mrs. Lowery's Confectionery, Short and Main Streets.

The performance will begin at 8:30 P. M. Any donations for the young man will be received and acknowledged by The Times.

REWARD BY GOVERNOR.
The Governor will be asked to offer a reward and detectives will be employed.

The case bears a strong and striking resemblance in many respects to the Webster case in Lynchburg, which resulted in the hanging of John Henry Thomas, and to the Faust murder case in Lunenburg, in which no definite results have been obtained.

While Mrs. Burruss is alive—indeed, is not badly hurt—she is prostrated from her terrible experience and is recovering very slowly from the injury she received when she was a white man or a negro. Efforts, however, to unearth the villain are being vigorously prosecuted. Indignation is high and the people are so much aroused that it would be hard to prevent a lynching if the man were fully identified.

AN AGED WOMAN COMMITS SUICIDE
Thought to Be a Pauper, She Was Weighted Down With Gold; Had Bank Account.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)
SALISBURY, N. C., March 1.—Lovey Hosier, an old colored woman, came here last fall to visit her nephew and the latter died about Christmas. Since then the old woman has been supported by the charity of the colored people, it being supposed that she was entirely without other means of support. She resided in Dixonville, a negro settlement of Salisbury, where on yesterday she was found dead. A pistol shot in the right side of her head had blown out her brains. She was found sitting in a half upright position, with a pistol lying on the floor near her right hand, as if released in death. The coroner who held the inquest has no doubt it was a case of suicide.

The inquest revealed the fact that the old woman, although supposed to be a pauper, had on her person \$50 in a canvas bag that she carried about her. Of this amount \$300 was in gold, \$45 in bills and \$1.07 in silver and change. A bank book was also found with a credit of \$20 in the Washington National Bank of Washington, Ind., from which place she claimed to have come.

The deposit was made in the name of Love D. Mark, and was dated May 1, 1901. In her trunk was found another pistol. The fact that no one seemed to know her possessing money strengthens the theory of suicide, though some claim she was murdered. She was in good health and her mental condition apparently normal.

The money will be held by the county treasurer until a lawful claimant is found. It is said that the woman has one son in Washington.

THE YOUNG MAN AND NIGHT.
At the five o'clock service at Monumental Church this afternoon Rev. Dr.

Evans will deliver his sermon on "The Young Man and Night." "That Right Belshazzar, King of the Chaldeans, was slain." A night of terror in ancient Babylon—night-life in the modern city—"Watchman, what of the night?"—and its deeds—whether do you walk in the darkness—night and its possibilities—crimes of night—night and misery—night and peace.

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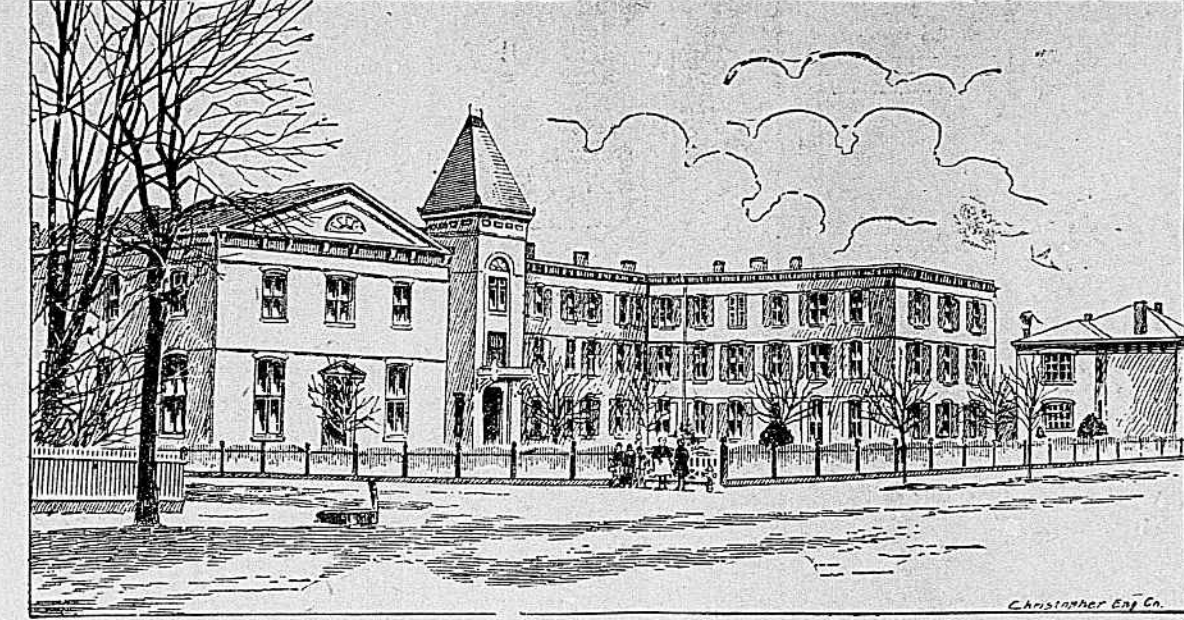
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FRONT VIEW OF THE MAIN BUILDING VIRGINIA FEMALE NORMAL INSTITUTE.

LIKE WEBBER CASE IN LYNCHBURG

Mrs. Burruss Fought With a Knife at Her Throat.

COUNTY IS MUCH AROUSED

Governor Montague to Be Asked to Offer Reward—The Rabbit Skin Closely Covered the Man's Face and Hands and Not Even His Color Could Be Seen.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., March 1.—The perpetrator of the foul crime against Mrs. Nelson L. Burruss has not been located by the authorities of Spotsylvania county. Sheriff T. A. Harris and other officers of the county have shadowed several parties who were under suspicion and one of them proved an alibi. The fact that the man who assaulted Mrs. Burruss had his face and even his hands covered with the skins of rabbits makes it impossible for her to identify him or to even tell whether he was a white man or a negro.

Efforts, however, to unearth the villain are being vigorously prosecuted. Indignation is high and the people are so much aroused that it would be hard to prevent a lynching if the man were fully identified.

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CAPT. ATKISSON PASSES AWAY

This Well-Known Attorney Dies in Manchester.

WAS A PROMINENT CITIZEN

Had Been Honored in Many Ways by His People—Water Company's Bill to Be Fought—Other Items From the South Side.

(Manchester Bureau, Richmond Times.)

Captain A. C. Attkisson, one of the most prominent citizens of Manchester and a leading member of the bar of that city, died yesterday at 11:10 o'clock after an illness of six weeks. The end had been expected at any hour for several days.

Captain Attkisson had been a factor in the public life of Manchester for more than a quarter of a century. He enjoyed a wide acquaintance in professional, business and social circles, and the highest esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens is shown in the fact that he had been honored in numerous ways, and had held office for some twenty years or more almost without interruption. He had served as Commonwealth's attorney for seventeen years.

Captain Attkisson was nearly fifty-four years old. He was born in Louisiana county, Va., October 25, 1848. He obtained an excellent education under private tutors and at Perkinsville Academy. During the war between the States he served in the Thirty-ninth Virginia Cavalry (Lee's Body Guard), and subsequently as a courier for General Robert E. Lee. At the close of the war, through which he passed with honor to himself and credit to his country, he was for some time deputy county clerk of Harrisonburg.

While filling this position he began the reading of law in the office of Messrs. Liggett and Haas, being admitted to the bar February, 1874. Captain Attkisson came at once to Manchester and began the practice of his chosen profession as a member of the law firm of Brooks and Attkisson. He was nominated for the office of Commonwealth's attorney in April of 1874, and subsequently appointed to the office.

In 1878 he was elected to the Legislature to represent his district. Serving two terms, he was elected Mayor of Manchester in 1886, and served two terms, declining re-election. Engaging in business for a while, he was for many years a member of the business firm of Gary and Brothers.

He was again nominated for Commonwealth's attorney, and had succeeded himself to the office term after term. When the campaign opened early this time he announced himself for the office of Mayor, and had a good following of representative citizens. Captain Attkisson was a member of the Knights of Pythias and Masons. He was Past Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Virginia. He was a consistent member of Bainbridge Street Baptist Church, and for a number of years taught a large Sunday-school class. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Gary.

The funeral will take place from Bainbridge Street Baptist Church this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Rev. E. V. Baldy will conduct the services and the interment will be made in Hollywood. The following will be the pall-bearers: Honorary—Judge William I. Clifton, Judge J. H. Ingram, D. D. Pulliam and Dr. T. P. Matthews.

Active (from his friends)—Messrs. H. E. DuVal, S. R. Owens, R. C. Broadbent, F. A. Lamb. (From the Knights of Pythias),

MANCHESTER BUREAU, RICHMOND TIMES.

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(Manchester Bureau, Richmond Times.)

Captain A. C. Attkisson, one of the most prominent citizens of Manchester and a leading member of the bar of that city, died yesterday at 11:10 o'clock after an illness of six weeks. The end had been expected at any hour for several days.

Captain Attkisson had been a factor in the public life of Manchester for more than a quarter of a century. He enjoyed a wide acquaintance in professional, business and social circles, and the highest esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens is shown in the fact that he had been honored in numerous ways, and had held office for some twenty years or more almost without interruption. He had served as Commonwealth's attorney for seventeen years.

Captain Attkisson was nearly fifty-four years old. He was born in Louisiana county, Va., October 25, 1848. He obtained an excellent education under private tutors and at Perkinsville Academy. During the war between the States he served in the Thirty-ninth Virginia Cavalry (Lee's Body Guard), and subsequently as a courier for General Robert E. Lee. At the close of the war, through which he passed with honor to himself and credit to his country, he was for some time deputy county clerk of Harrisonburg.

While filling this position he began the reading of law in the office of Messrs. Liggett and Haas, being admitted to the bar February, 1874. Captain Attkisson came at once to Manchester and began the practice of his chosen profession as a member of the law firm of Brooks and Attkisson. He was nominated for the office of Commonwealth's attorney in April of 1874, and subsequently appointed to the office.

In 1878 he was elected to the Legislature to represent his district. Serving two terms, he was elected Mayor of Manchester in 1886, and served two terms, declining re-election. Engaging in business for a while, he was for many years a member of the business firm of Gary and Brothers.

He was again nominated for Commonwealth's attorney, and had succeeded himself to the office term after term. When the campaign opened early this time he announced himself for the office of Mayor, and had a good following of representative citizens. Captain Attkisson was a member of the Knights of Pythias and Masons. He was Past Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Virginia. He was a consistent member of Bainbridge Street Baptist Church, and for a number of years taught a large Sunday-school class. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Gary.

The funeral will take place from Bainbridge Street Baptist Church this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Rev. E. V. Baldy will conduct the services and the interment will be made in Hollywood. The following will be the pall-bearers: Honorary—Judge William I. Clifton, Judge J. H. Ingram, D. D. Pulliam and Dr. T. P. Matthews.

Active (from his friends)—